

Committee: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs / Environment & Transportation

Legislation: SB 0687/ HB 0829 Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022

Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Position: Favorable

Hearings: February 24/25,2022

Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members,

Cedar Lane's Environmental Justice Ministry supports this proposed legislation that would require that the Maryland Department of Environment adopt the Advanced Clean Truck rule by December 1, 2022. This rule requires that vehicle manufacturers sell an increasing annual percentage of medium and heavy duty vehicles including pickup, delivery, and semi trucks as well as school buses between Model Year 2026 (for states that adopt in 2022) and 2035. These vehicles represent 10% of vehicles on the road but disproportionately contribute to 30% of carbon emissions, 45% of toxic nitrogen oxide emissions, and 57% of health harming particulate matter emitted by the entire transportation sector in the US.

As a faith community we hold justice and equity as a principle that guides the inherent worth and dignity of every person who is entitled to a safe, healthy and clean environment. The state of Maryland ranks 10th in the number of people with asthma, a respiratory disease that has among its causes dirty air.

Under Section 177 of the Clean Air Act, states other than California are not allowed to set their own emissions standards. However, states can choose to follow and adopt vehicle standards that California has enacted. Maryland first adopted California's clean car standards for personal vehicle electrification through legislative action in 2007. Maryland has the opportunity to enact similar standards again and clean up large dirty diesel vehicles that continue to harm our health and exacerbate climate change.

This legislation would help Maryland follow through on its commitment for 30% of all medium and heavy duty vehicles sales to be electric by 2030 and could create high quality green jobs in the process. Maryland would also be included in the growing number of states adopting the Advanced Clean Truck Rule, including California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Washington, and Oregon.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this important legislation HB 0829 and SB 0687.

Thank you.

Nanci Wilkinson

Environmental Justice Ministry

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

